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THE BAPTIST

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State Missions Emphasis

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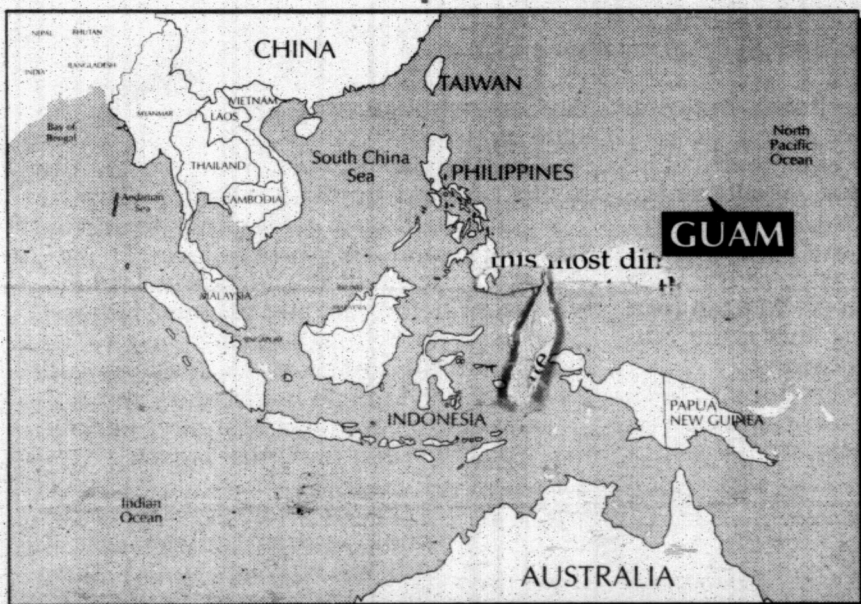
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Baptists provide ministry after tragedy

AGANA, Guam (BP) — Tony and Kristi Smith have experienced their share of natural disasters in the two years Tony has served as pastor of Marianas Baptist Church in Guam, including four major earthquakes and two typhoons.

However, it was the Aug. 6 crash of Korean Air Lines Flight 801 less than five miles from the church that has become the most intense and emotionally draining relief effort the church has ever undertaken.

At least 199 of the 226 people aboard the plane were killed.

efforts the week following the crash. Although they worked under the auspices of the Salvation Army, Marianas Church was the largest group supplying volunteers.

"One of the greatest things I've learned is that you can never have your church overprepared to deal with emergencies," Smith said in a telephone interview.

"One of the greatest things for our church was that we were as close as we were and that we responded. ... (Relief officials) said they had never seen a church respond as quickly as we did and with the force that we did."

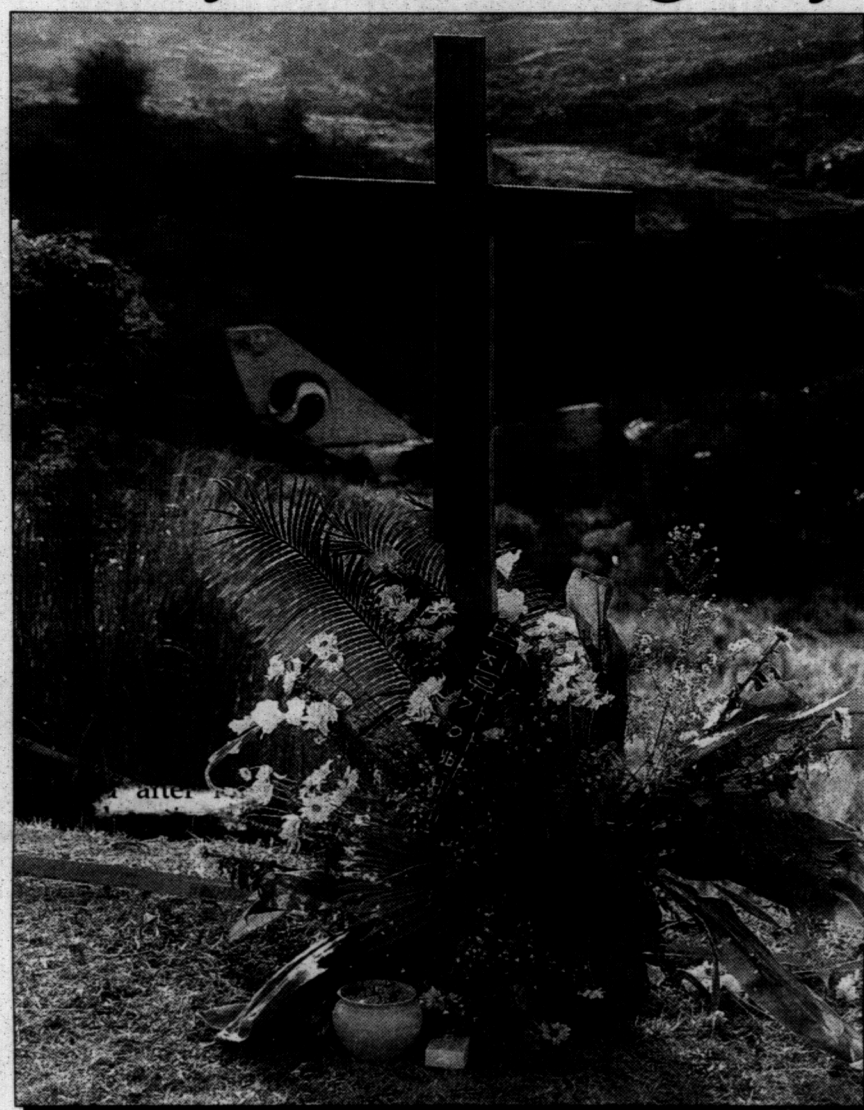
Tony Smith also helped coordinate counseling services for about 300 family members of the victims who came to Guam, primarily from Korea.

At the church, members were busy around the clock making sandwiches and preparing supplies.

The Hawaii Baptist Convention sent \$1,000 for the relief effort to the church, which was largely needed to buy Gatorade," Smith said, noting intense heat and hazardous conditions made providing liquids one of their most important tasks. The church, founded by the International Mission Board, is now a part of the Hawaii convention.

The last of the volunteers were relieved at the site by Korean Air Lines workers by Aug. 13, but Smith said his counseling work is far from over.

"I guess there's no limit to how your faith in God helps you through these things," he said. "The greatest thing that I've learned is that God doesn't



A makeshift cross is planted on a hillside near the site where Korean Air Lines Flight 801 crashed on Aug. 6 on the Pacific island of Guam. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy)

hide us under his wings to protect us, but he hides us to prepare us. And then he puts us back in the battle."

Information on how churches can prepare for disasters is available through Southern

Baptist Disaster Relief, which is coordinated through Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department in Jackson and the North American Mission Board volunteer mobilization team in Atlanta.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Clarke proceeds received

3

State offering kicks off

6-7

Choir clinic slated

4

Women's enrichment

5

BWA launches Internet web site

The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) now has its own Internet site on the World Wide Web at www.baptistnet.org, according to Wendy Ryan, BWA director of communications.

Designed entirely in-house by the McLean, Va.-based staff, the web site contains general information on the BWA with separate pages that describe fellowship, evangelism, aid, justice, human rights, and the work of the men, youth, and women's departments, Ryan said.

A special news and information section includes the latest news releases from BWA as well as files on BWA News, the organization's monthly newsletter, and Baptist World, their quarterly magazine.

"There is a section on ways one can help BWA and a link-up to the Youth Department website where one can register for the 13th Baptist Youth World Congress, Houston, July 22-26, 1998," Ryan said.

As the website develops, there will be a section on the 18th Baptist World Congress on Jan. 5-9, 2000, in Melbourne, Australia, she said.

Looking back

10 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board approves \$5.7 million to expand Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian, adding 160 beds, doubling the cafeteria serving and seating capacity, and building a staff housing center that would double as a mini-conference center during the off-season.

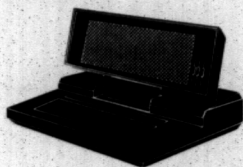
20 years ago

Castlewoods Church in Rankin County is a product of the ministry of the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions. The offering help purchase the property and place a mobile chapel on the site, according to J. C. Renfro, Rankin Association director of missions.

50 years ago

Where a night club orchestra used to sit and bang out tunes, a choir now sings the songs of Zion. Eastside Church, Pascagoula, purchased the "Comet Club," one of the gulf coast's night clubs, and converted the building into a church dedicated to preaching the gospel. A. L. Ott is pastor.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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State missions important now as ever

Prayer was led by Miss Lackey." Thus reads the first mention of Margaret McRae Lackey in the annals of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). How eminently appropriate.

The mother of Mississippi Baptists' Season of Prayer for State Missions had a reputation for first bathing everything in prayer before setting off to do the Lord's work around her beloved state.

As the Mississippi WMU corresponding secretary from 1912-1930, she wrote:

"Sisters, we have done passing well this year. But, oh, the untouched multitude of Baptist women and children in Mississippi today whose souls are crying silently yet know not for what they are crying."

We often think of those souls "crying silently" on the other side of the world, but we mustn't forget there are as many crying souls in need of Jesus just across the street as there are on the other side of the world.

We often lose sight of that fact, overlooking the spiritual poverty all around us to focus on faraway, more dramatic mission stories from some other place on the globe.

Margaret Lackey, however, never lost her focus on the work to be done across the street. She understood that state missions work was a fundamental building block in the Southern Baptist strategy for reaching people everywhere for Christ.

So profound was her impact on the way Mississippians viewed state missions that the annual offering for state missions was named in her honor in 1935.

Eighty-five years later, she became the first full-time WMU leader in the state and more than 60 years after the state missions offering was named in her honor, her followers continue to answer the call to state missions.

Could she have foreseen the modern-

day magni-

tude of that

which she

began so

long ago? Did

God allow her to see

how her efforts — one

person, so long ago, with

so much to do — would

come to fruition in the

Mississippi of today?

The present goal for the Margaret

Lackey Offering for State Missions is

\$748,000. Of that amount:

◆ \$174,000 will go to new missions

to spread the Good News to those who

have never heard.

◆ \$207,000 will go to Central Hills

Retreat in Kosciusko and \$200,000 will

go to Camp Garaywa in Clinton, where

thousands of young lives have been

transformed by what they learned

there.

◆ \$35,000 for disaster relief min-

istries, which touch so many people at

an absolute low point in their lives.

◆ \$8,000 for multicultural min-

istries and \$14,000 for work with inter-

nationals.

◆ \$20,000 for the Parchman

Penitentiary ministry and an additional

\$15,000 for other criminal justice min-

istries.

◆ \$20,000 for student work and

black student ministries, and \$10,000

for missions awareness.

◆ \$45,000 for pastor/church building

aid.

◆ All offerings beyond the goal will be

designated for the new adult lodge

planned for Camp Garaywa.

The gifts to the Margaret Lackey State

Offering make a big difference in the lives

of people all over Mississippi. You can turn

to pages six and seven of this issue and

find out exactly what that means.

State missions meant everything to Miss

Lackey, and state missions apparently

mean a great deal to today's Mississippi

What is That in Your Hand?



Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions

pages 6-7

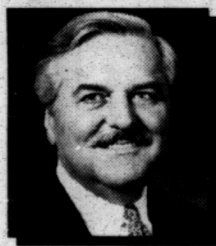
Baptists who give so generously to the state offering.

Our attitude is even reflected in the motto adopted by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board: "Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus."

We give it to all the Margaret Lackeys who went before us, and all the Margaret Lackeys who will come after us, to be found faithful to the state missions call issued by our Lord so many years ago.

Thanks to people like Margaret Lackey, that's our Mississippi Baptist legacy.

GUEST OPINION:



Simple words for troubling issues

By Joe McKeever, pastor
First Church, Kenner, La.

A few years ago I was head-
ing back to New Orleans
and stopped in a little diner in
southern Mississippi to get a
bite. This was a family style
restaurant and I found myself
seated across the table from
two older gentlemen, both
rather heavy-set and wearing
faded overalls.

I had brought a book which I
was trying to read, but the man
directly across the table wanted
to talk.

"Well," he said, "what do
you think the legislature is
going to do this week?"

I said, "Sir, I'm from New
Orleans and don't have any
idea what they are doing in
Jackson."

I could have told him I
pastored in Mississippi for
nineteen years and counted it
as a second home, but I chose
not to.

My answer didn't slow him
down. He said, "Who are you
folks going to elect as governor
this time?"

I mentioned a politician that
I thought would make a pretty
good choice. He named one of
the candidates who had a back-
ground with the Ku Klux Klan
and asked what I thought his

chances were.

I said, "Not very good. He
believes some things that most
of our people do not."

"Like what?" the man said.

"Well," I said, "He believes
in the superiority of the white
race."

"That's a little hard to argue
with," the man said.

I laid my book down and
looked him in the eye and said,
"I'll argue with it."

I was amazed to hear his
response. He said, "Then why
is it that every time whites and
blacks have lived together
through the centuries, blacks
have ended up being the slaves
of whites?"

I said, "Sir, even if that were
true, and I doubt it, you could
turn it around and ask, 'Why is

it that whenever whites and
blacks have lived together the
whites have insisted on making
slaves out of the blacks?' It
looks to me like if anything that
would speak to the inferiority
of the white race."

"Well," he continued, "that
brings up the matter of slavery.
You know, of course, that there
is not one word in the Bible
against slavery, don't you?"

I was stunned. "Are we
going to have to reinvent the
wheel here?" I was thinking to
myself.

Before I could come up with
an answer, he challenged me,
"Give me one verse of Scripture
that says slavery is wrong."

For the first time his com-
panion spoke. He had been sit-
ting there eating his lunch and

taking in this conversation. I
had wrongly assumed they
were peas of a pod.

While I was trying to think
of a Scripture to answer the first
guy, this gentleman turned to
his friend and with eloquent
simplicity said to him, "How
about 'Thou shalt love thy
neighbor as thyself.'"

I said, "What a great
answer!" Nothing I could have
said would have improved on
that. It was the perfect response.

It will not surprise anyone to
hear that the first man moved
right along, changing the sub-
ject, going on to something else,
refusing to face the fact that he
had just been nailed.

A lot of issues in life can be
settled by those simple words
of our Lord.

Not long after this conversa-
tion one of our local officials in
Louisiana said to me in a letter
that there was absolutely noth-
ing immoral about his advocat-
ing casino gambling.

He then challenged me to
give him one verse in all the
Bible that says gambling is
wrong.

I wrote him back: "Dear Sir:
Thou shalt love thy neighbor as
thyself."

Executive Committee approves personnel moves

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), meeting August 26 in the Baptist Building in Jackson, named Ed J. Deuschle as a consultant in the Evangelism Department and Anita Malley as Mission Friends and Girls in Action (GAs) consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

Deuschle, 50, has been pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis since 1992. He previously pastored First Church, Pontotoc; Trinity Church, Fulton; Morgan Chapel Church, Sturgis; and Eastside Church, Marietta, Okla.

As an evangelism consultant, Deuschle will assist in the promotion of evangelism through such programs as People Sharing Jesus, Total Church Life, Continuing Witness Training, and others. He will also provide leadership in the area of Interfaith Witness.

"The decision for Dr. Ed Deuschle to become a consultant in the Evangelism

Department is of God alone. The Holy Spirit led us to Dr. Deuschle, who will help us in bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus," said S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, director of the MBCB Evangelism Department.

In addition to Adkins in the MBCB Evangelism Department, Deuschle joins Don Lum who is the consultant in the area of youth evangelism.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Deuschle graduated from Tupelo High School.

He holds the Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Mississippi, the Master of Divinity Degree from Southwestern Seminary, and the Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degree from New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans.

Deuschle served as a First Lieutenant in the U. S. Army and is a Vietnam War veteran.



Deuschle

He is married to the former Rita Fraiser. They have four children.

Deuschle has served as second vice president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, as a member of the Executive Committee of the MBCB, and as chairman of the personnel committee of the convention board.

He is scheduled to begin his duties at MBCB on September 15.

Malley, a native of Magee in Simpson County, comes to WMU from Southern University of New Orleans, where she is completing a Masters Degree in social work.

In addition, Malley holds the Master of Arts in Christian Education from New Orleans Seminary, the Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education from Samford University in Birmingham, and the Associate of Arts degree from Copiah-



Malley

Lincoln Community College in Wesson.

She has served as the Minister of Education intern at Pleasant Ridge Church, Hueytown, Ala., and as a staff member at Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, Ala.

She currently serves as a Home Services Coordinator/Case Manager for the Lakeview Shepherd Center in New Orleans.

In addition, she has led seminars and workshops for Louisiana WMU and taught Sunday School. She is also a DiscipleNow leader.

Malley will be available to help churches in the area of preschool and children's ministry, beginning September 15.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST Record

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Aug. 26 payment finalizes Clarke sale

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The Aug. 26 presentation of a \$1,000,000 check from the State of Mississippi closed the book on the sale of Clarke College property in Newton — but not on the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist two-year school that closed permanently in 1992.

"The final chapter in Clarke College history has not been written; the legacy of Christian service that is Clarke will continue to burn brightly in all its graduates who are helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus," said Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) agreed to purchase the property for a specialized residential facility to serve older persons with mental illnesses who can manage their lives with a degree of professional assistance.

"DMH is very pleased... This project is the result of the close, cooperative working relationship between legislators, Gov. Fordice, the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the citizens of Newton County, and DMH — all working together for the common good of persons with special needs," said Randy Hendrix, DMH executive director.

Larry Otis of Tupelo, chairman of the MBCB special committee charged with disposing of the Clarke property, com-

mended the alumni of the 90-year-old institution.

"The gracious cooperation of the active Clarke College alumni in this most difficult process brought out the strong Christian character of the Clarke spirit.

"The instructions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention have been carried out, and the property will be used in a manner compatible with the committee's instructions," Otis said.

The MBCB, meeting in Jackson Aug. 26 as the newspaper's weekly printing deadline neared, was expected to hear proposals that will:

- ◆ disband the Clarke College special committee, and
- ◆ provide for payment from available MBCB funds for the expenses the state convention governing body incurred in the closing and sale of the Clarke property, in order that sale proceeds can be fully plowed into Christian education in Mississippi.

The full disbursement to the three remaining Baptist institutions of higher learning in the state is seen as a way to honor the legacy of Clarke donors, by providing the means through which their gifts will continue to be used 100% for Christian education even though Clarke was forced to close.

The three Mississippi Baptist institutions sharing the disbursement are William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, and Mississippi College in Clinton.

Mississippi College will also

receive an amount from the sale proceeds that was earmarked by MBCB members to reimburse that school for deficit expenses incurred during a doomed attempt in the 1980s to keep Clarke open to students under Mississippi College management.

Clarke College was char-

tered in 1907 by the General Association of Regular Baptists in Mississippi, on 40 acres donated by Newton residents.

Named after Nathan Lytle Clarke, longtime Mississippi pastor and church organizer, the school conferred its first degrees on nine graduates in 1911.



CLARKE SALE — On hand Aug. 26 for presentation of the \$1,000,000 check to purchase Clarke College property were (from left) Barri Shirley, business administrator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); Levon Moore of Kosciusko, Clarke College special committee vice-chairman; Randy Hendrix, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH); Miss. Rep. Raymond Comans of Decatur; Clarke College special committee chairman Larry Otis of Tupelo; Miss. Lt. Gov. Ronnie Musgrove of Batesville; MBCB executive director-treasurer Bill Causey; Miss. Rep. Johnny Stringer of Montrose; Roger McMurtry, DMH bureau chief for mental health services; Mark Yeager, assistant director of the Mississippi State Hospital; and Frank Harmon of Newton, Clarke College special committee member. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Students urged to apply personal integrity

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. (BP) — Everyone wants to embrace it, but few manage to apply it to their lives.

The "it" is personal integrity and Chris Davis recently challenged a group of college students to get serious about reflecting it in their everyday lives.

The Southwestern Seminary recruiter led an Aug. 12 seminar on integrity during Student Week '97 at Lake Junaluska (N.C.) Assembly.

"The business world is concerned about this — they want to hire people of integrity for their companies. As Christians, we should be even more concerned about it because we want to bring people to Christ," Davis told the students as they took notes and jotted down Scripture references.

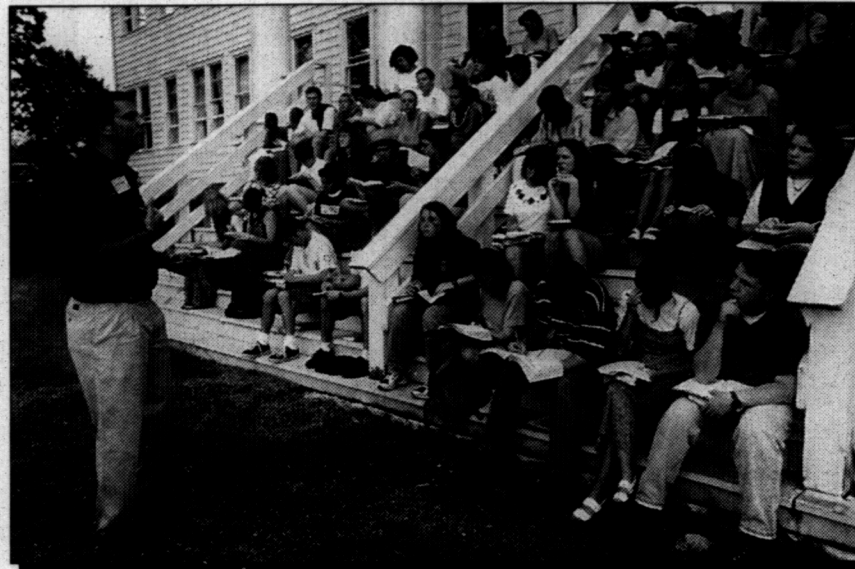
In preparing for the seminar, Davis said he found very few authors who were willing to define integrity. But he discovered these words used to describe it: wisdom, honesty, compassion, joy, trust, endurance, and self-control. The Hebrew word translated as "integrity" in the Old Testament, he added, means "whole, complete, upright, and ethically sound."

"What causes us to lack integrity is what's inside us. As the Apostle Paul said, the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak." He urged students to be quick to confess sin in their lives.

"When I do something wrong, I've learned to confess it right then because I don't want excess baggage to hold me back. Once you confess sin, it is gone right then, you're forgiven."

Davis told students men and women of integrity are not hypocrites — they live what they believe.

"Our lives should be able to withstand any kind of inspection," he said. "Don't be a hypocrite. God doesn't like that one bit."



OVERFLOW CROWD — Chris Davis, a recruiter from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, led an Aug. 12 session on "Personal Integrity" during Student Week '97 at Lake Junaluska Assembly in North Carolina. Sixty-two students attended the seminar, forcing Davis to hold the class outside. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Honesty is another trait of a person with integrity, Davis said, adding "honest people speak the truth, even in their hearts."

Self-control and endurance are two additional keys to a life of integrity, he said.

Describing "secrets to self-control," Davis said Christians need "to fall in love with God."

"When you fall in love with someone, you send them notes, flowers, and you spend as much time with them as possible. But what do you do for God in the supposed love relationship you have with him?"

"We should be willing to spend more time with God in prayer and study. We should be excited about our relationship with him."

Another secret to self-control, Davis said, is "living out the Word of God."

"Immerse yourself in Scripture," he challenged students. "If you want to be self-controlled, you have to become spiritually fit. You have to study and apply the Word of God."

Davis encouraged students

to pray for endurance in living out their faith, pointing to the Apostle Paul as an excellent role model.

"If anyone ever had a reason to quit, Paul did. He was ship-

wrecked, beaten, imprisoned. I don't have to face things like that, but I still need God's help. I have found that if I ask for his strength and power, God will give me what it takes to face whatever comes."

The first student to share his testimony with his peers during Student Week at Lake Junaluska focused on integrity, too.

Nathan DeGroff, a junior at Northern Kentucky University, said 75% of all drivers exceed the speed limit and 60% of employees call in sick occasionally just to have a day off.

"But it's really hard for our testimony to be all it can be if we let the little things slide," he said. "I'm going to seek him and try to live the life of integrity."

Student Week '97, which included separate events at Lake Junaluska, N.C., Aug. 10-15, and Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center Aug. 9-15, attracted more than 2,000 college students and student leaders from across the country. It was sponsored by NSM.

The Road to Everlasting Life




God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My sibling's cremation of our mother has emotionally scarred me. I need to know if there is a Biblical statement for or against cremation.

Your question was so intriguing that I decided to talk with my friend Mark Seepe, director of Mark Seepe Funeral Home and Crematorium in Jackson. He said there is no scriptural reference to cremation except when Saul and his sons were cremated after their bodies were recovered from the Philistines (1 Sam. 31). Some people feel that when they die, they are no longer a part of this earth and therefore choose cremation rather than burial. Other people believe cremation is the better way to return to dust (Ecc. 3:21). However, cremation is not for everyone. Talk through your emotional upset and grief with your pastor, a Christian counselor, or close friend. Remember your mother as she was in life. What was your relationship? What did you learn from her? What contributions did she make to your life? Are there hurts for which you now need to forgive her? The death of a loved one is the proper time to look inward and decide to whether to continue carrying hurts and pains, or whether to let them die along with your loved one.

I often lose sleep thinking about the prospect of death. I am not suicidal, but quite the contrary — I am truly frightened of dying.

Take time to ponder what it is about the dying process that frightens you. Are you afraid of a lingering illness before death? Are you concerned about leaving your family and the grief your death would cause them? Whatever your reasons for fearing death, they are valid and should be explored. Your pastor or a Christian counselor can help you understand these feelings. Think of how you picture Heaven. Study your Bible to find out what Jesus said about Heaven. Get recommendations from your pastor on books about Heaven as Christians believe it to be. As always, pray and ask God for understanding in this matter. Give yourself time to become informed; your questions will not be cleared up in a day. There is one assurance by which you can live: As someone who has accepted Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you will spend eternity in Heaven when God is ready for you to come home. No one on this earth knows when that will be, so trust God and live your life one day at a time (Luke 12:22-31).

Pray this day for...August 28–September 4, 1997

AUGUST

28 Pray for Mark and Laura Shook, missionaries to Mexico City, to be encouraged and strengthened as they share the Good News and that the people will receive the Bread of Life.

29 Pray for missionaries in Thailand as they develop new, more effective strategies to reach more than 100 unreached people groups in this Buddhist country.

30 Some Christian groups in Kumasi, Ghana, are in a crisis following a decision by city authorities to ban the use of public school facilities as worship centers. Pray that the authorities will rescind this decision.

31 Baptist representatives John & Connie Anthony have received permanent residency in Israel as they begin their 25th year of service there. Pray that other Baptist families will also receive permanent residency status.

SEPTEMBER

1 Labor Day is a holiday honoring working people. Thank the Lord for the provisions our government has made through the years to protect the rights of workers in the United States.

2 For missionaries Roland & Angie Cheng and their children as they move from Hong Kong to New Zealand to establish new churches among Cantonese-speaking Chinese and other ethnic groups.

3 That the faith of four young believers in Singapore will grow strong, looking toward the day when they will return to China, their homeland to share God's truth with family and friends who still walk in darkness.

4 Pray for a Christian brother in a Muslim nation who is losing his home because of his faithfulness to Christ. Remember countless other believers in Muslim nations who pay a high price for their fidelity to Christ.

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530
Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi Prayerline 1-800-787-PRAY

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Kelley details women's enrichment plan

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Rhonda Kelley believes there is a place for a women's enrichment ministry in most churches. After all, who can communicate the love of God to a woman better than another woman — and in most churches women are in the majority.

Kelley is an adjunct faculty member of New Orleans Seminary and wife of seminary president Charles "Chuck" Kelley.

Speaking at the National Conference for Church Leadership on Aug. 11 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina, Kelly described the steps to beginning a women's enrichment ministry that will identify areas of women's needs not being met and seek how the Lord would have those needs met.

"It is not a trite answer to say, 'pray.' Beginning a new ministry is a divine-human process," she said.

Kelley identified a 10 step process to starting a women's enrichment ministry:

- ◆ Identify a godly woman or small group of ministry-oriented women to lay the ground work.

Kelley noted the number of times she has heard testimony of how one woman began praying for a ministry and another woman or group of women felt the Lord

leading them to minister to other woman.

"Be warned," she added, "if you present a good idea, you've volunteered to do it!"

- ◆ Conduct some sort of survey to identify needs and locate resources. Women in various stages of life have differing needs, Kelley pointed out.

"It does not have to be a formal survey. You could do an informal poll as you chat with various women," she said.

- ◆ Determine the purpose or philosophy for the ministry. This does not have to be in writing at first. Often the philosophy is defined as the ministry is started.

- ◆ Organize and structure the ministry. "The size of your structure and the number of leaders depends upon the size of your church, the number of women you have, and the number of needs that are not being met," Kelley said.

- ◆ Train leadership. "Just because they've been enlisted to lead, doesn't mean they know how to lead," she said.

- ◆ Develop programs suited to the needs of your church. "Bible study is a need for all women in our churches," Kelley said. "Bible study is the thread that holds it all together."

Special events can be planned that are designed to meet specific needs identified in the survey. For example, women need to know some basics of car maintenance and

repair. A special event could focus on that need, she said.

- ◆ Plan events and programs thoroughly. "Be committed to excellence," Kelley said. "Don't try to do so many things that you cannot do any of them well."

- ◆ Build personal relationships. "The number one reason women want to come together is fellowship," she said.

- ◆ Work cooperatively with staff and other church organizations. "When you have church programs going, you don't need to duplicate them. Coordinate and cooperate with the rest of the church," she said.

One important area of cooperation is child care, "which is always a big issue for woman," Kelley pointed out. "If nursery and child care is not provided, you penalize women with children."

A women's ministry must work closely with whoever is in charge of nursery and childcare in the church, Kelley said.

- ◆ Follow up with careful evaluation and discipleship. Register all guests and follow up with a note. Send thank you cards to everyone who helped. Build a mailing list for future events. Share prospects with the appropriate groups in the church.

The possibilities are as many as there are women in your church, Kelley pointed out.

"There is so much we can do because there are so many needs."

McWilliams dies in Clinton

W. D. McWilliams, husband of Anne Washburn McWilliams, former associate editor of The Baptist Record, died Aug. 20 of lung cancer at his home in Clinton. Funeral services were held Aug. 22 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, his home church.

McWilliams, 70, native of Magee, was reared in Midnight. He retired after 32 years with Glass Containers working in the shipping department.

Survivors also include four sisters and a number of nieces and nephews.

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September 14-17, 1997

Margaret Lackey crosses language barrier

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Director

José López, growing up in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, was planning after college to live out his Christian life as an accountant, but things didn't work out the way he envisioned.

bursting out of their existing facilities — a mobile chapel provided through the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering — and with the slab for a permanent building nearby, López feels he's in the right place at the right time.

López estimated that in the

The upshot is that after he served a summer in Scott County, López, a graduate of New Orleans Seminary, was asked to become pastor of the fledgling ministry.

Support comes from the church's congregation, Scott Association, and the missions budget of the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

In October, a volunteer construction crew led by Terry Cross of Meridian will "black in" the new building to be erected on the slab behind the chapel trailer.

López, along with Joel and Damaris Medina, travel on Saturdays to Carthage to work on a ministry to Hispanics in that area.

The grandmother was practicing voodoo and the father was a humanist. When the mother was baptized, no one else from the family attended.

From her verbal and lifestyle witness, however, the whole family is now Christian and they are witnessing to others.

The grandmother even witnessed to a man who also practiced voodoo. He reported to the grandmother something that sounded like it came straight out of the story of Elijah.

"I prayed to my gods and no one answered. Your God is the true God — he comes," said the man.

He comes to Scott County.



HISPANIC WITNESS — José López (left) and Joel Medina utilize the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering to advance their work in the Hispanic communities of Scott County and Carthage. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Instead, López, 31, is serving as pastor of Capilla Bautista el Buen Pastor. That's Spanish for Baptist Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

The church is not in Puerto Rico; it's in Forest, Miss.

Today, with the congregation

past two years, more than 100 people have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ as a result of the ministry to Hispanics in Scott County.

Also, "God has proved to us he is working on this ministry," said López.

The ministry had its beginnings in a mission trip to Bolivia. Then-high school student Wade Fisher of Sebastopol Church, Sebastopol, had gone to Bolivia to work with Southern Baptist missionaries Tom and Cynthia Martin of Mississippi.

Hispanics had already been moving to the Scott County area to work in the chicken ranch and processing industry there.

After seeing the possibilities of a work with Spanish-speaking people, he began inviting them to church.

A slow start blossomed as Fisher and friend Jonathan Sharp — both presently students at Mississippi State University in Starkville — learned to speak Spanish.

Fisher learned so well that his nickname became "Diego" (as in the story of Zorro).

What is That in Your Hand?

Although many Hispanics in Scott County are settling in, going to college, and buying houses, there is still a lot of movement in and out of the area.

López laments getting a Sunday School teacher or van driver one week and the next week that person moving away.

However, López hangs on to wise counsel from retired missionary Jack Glaze, who preached in Scott County at the beginning of the ministry.

"You have a school for missionaries. Give them the basic tools and pray with them that they can share with others the good news of salvation," Glaze told them.

"I set my mind like that," said López.

An example of results: López asked a family if their daughter could attend Sunday School after she completed Vacation Bible School. The parents asked if he was Catholic.

"Sure," López said, "I'm Catholic, because the word 'Catholic' means universal and Christianity is the universal religion." They were interested.

Mother and daughter came to church, and López was allowed to hold a home Bible study in their residence.

MARGARET LACKEY STATE MISSIONS OFFERING GOAL FOR 1998

New Missions	\$174,000
Central Hills Retreat	207,000
Camp Garaywa	200,000
Disaster Relief	35,000
Multicultural Special Ministries	8,000
Parchman Penitentiary Ministry	15,000
Pastor/Church Building Aid	45,000
Student Work/Black Students	20,000
International Ministries	
Student Ministry Internships	9,000
Crossroads Friendship House	5,000
Missions Awareness	10,000
Goal for 1998	\$748,000

Challenge Goal

All offerings beyond goal will be designated for the new adult lodge at Camp Garaywa.



State goal:
Church goal

Prayer for State Missions

State offering reaches behind prison bars

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

On a hill outside Leakesville in Greene County sits a sprawling complex of buildings, fences, towers, and razor wire — the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI).

Opened in 1989, SMCI is a medium security facility housing almost 2,000 inmates in three units.

One of the ways Mississippi Baptists minister within the fences and razor wire of SMCI is through the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions. The Lackey allocation for prison ministry buys literature and

Bibles for the 150 or more inmates involved in weekly discipleship classes.

John Henry, director of missions for both Greene and George Associations, serves as a volunteer at SMCI.

"I first got involved in prison ministry in 1991," Henry said. "I don't mean to sound pious, but it was by conviction that I got involved."

At first Henry was involved in one-on-one witnessing and discipleship. Now, there is a virtual church behind bars. He leads weekly worship services and helps train other volunteers.

One of the SMCI units is a boot-camp type experience called Regimented Inmate Discipline (RID), a 20-week paramilitary-like camp with the purpose of instilling discipline and pride in the inmates.

"We have 32 inmates in RID who are involved in a Survival Kit study group," Henry said.

In addition, there are two other Survival Kit studies at Unit I on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and other study groups using material such as Experiencing God and The Disciples Prayer Life.

All these groups are led by volunteers, and all the materials are purchased through the state mission offering, Henry said.

"We are blessed with volunteers at SMCI," said Kathleen Spurlin, senior chaplain at SMCI.

The Minnesota native is a veteran of prison work in Mississippi, having spent several years doing chaplain's work on death row at Parchman Penitentiary before moving to SMCI when it opened.

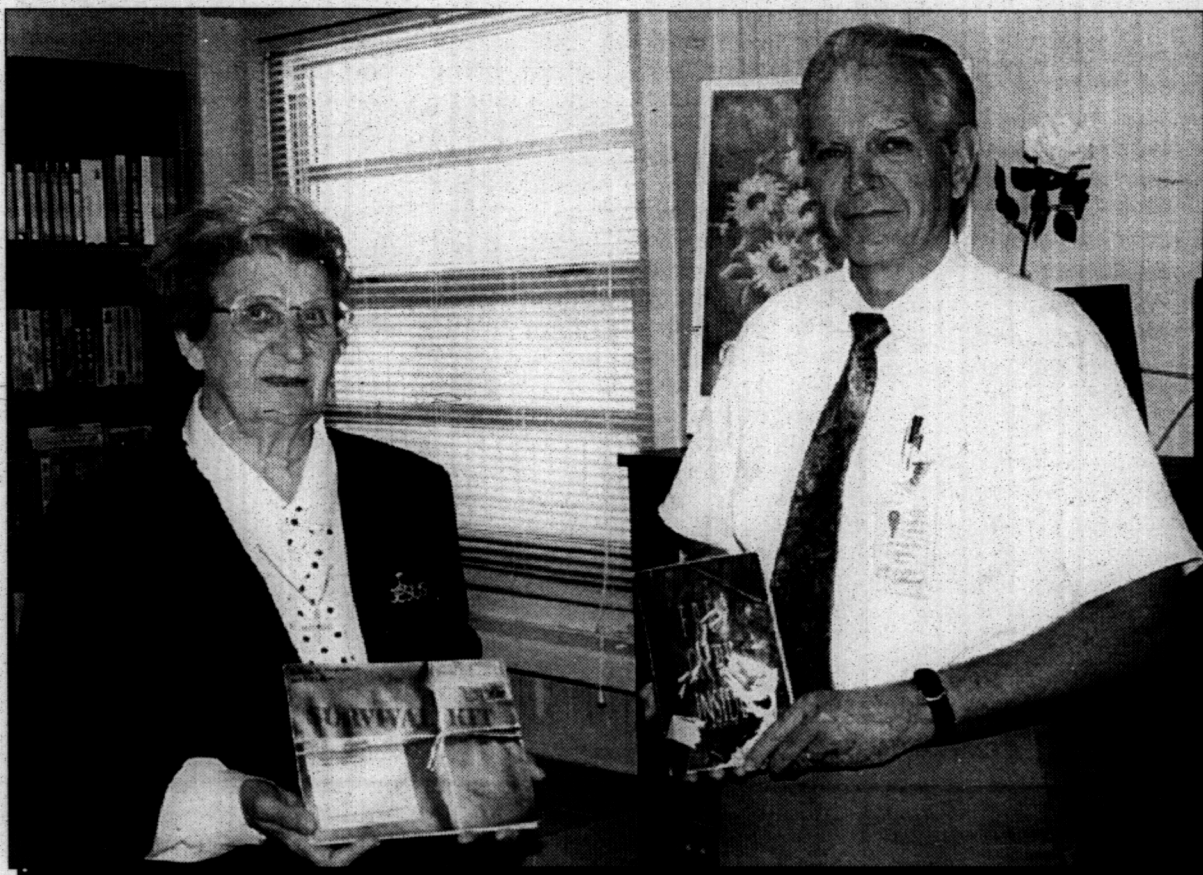
A nun in the order of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Spurlin is a familiar figure along the sidewalks of SMCI in her black and white suit, wearing an "I Love Jesus" brooch on her lapel.

As senior chaplain, all religious work at SMCI must meet with her approval.

"We are invited guests under the chaplain's authority," Henry pointed out.

Spurlin welcomes Baptist involvement. She pointed out that her first training in prison ministry was from Virginia Baptists.

Volunteer training at SMCI is



EFFECTIVE TOOLS — Kathleen Spurlin (left), senior chaplain at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution outside Leakesville, and John Henry, director of missions for the George and Greene Associations and a prison ministry volunteer, hold copies of some of the much-appreciated literature provided by the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. (Photo by Carl M. White)

done by Mississippi Baptists through the office of Neron Smith in the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Spurlin especially welcomes the literature supplied by the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

"We make Scriptures available to every inmate who wants it," Spurlin said.

They hand out a special edition of the New International Version of the Bible called "Free on the Inside," which is purchased with Margaret Lackey funds.

The Bible includes the plan of salvation and testimonies from inmates.

A recent addition to the chaplain's office is a portable baptistry — in reality a plastic feeding trough for horses and cattle, but big enough to baptize new converts by immersion. It has been used over 200 times, Henry pointed out.

"Prison ministry is the raw edge of society," Henry said. "The glory is, you bring Jesus in."

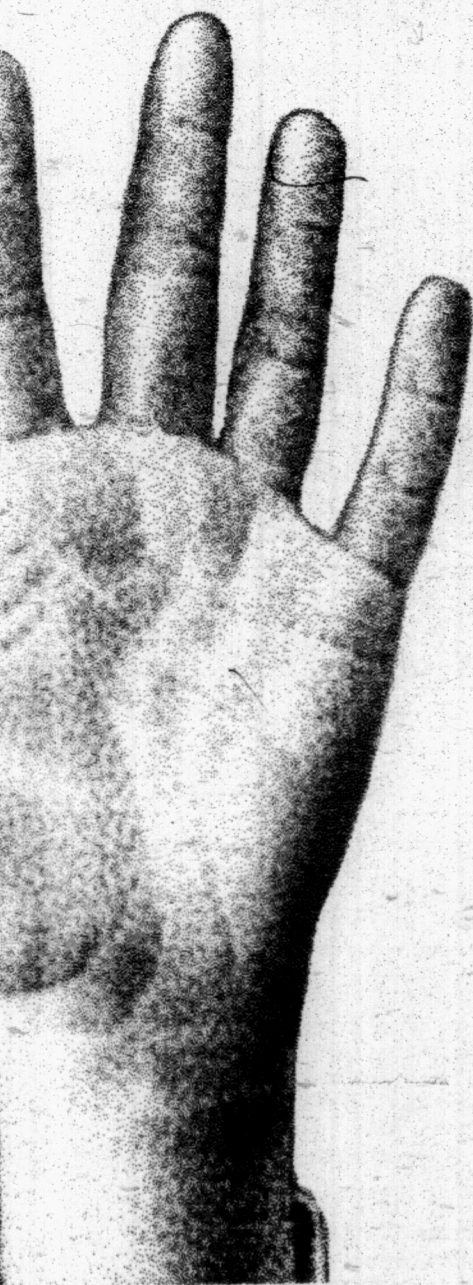
MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

1996 TOTAL GIFTS

1. First, Brandon	\$17,931.16
2. Broadmoor, Jackson	16,533.76
3. Colonial Heights, Jackson	13,352.56
4. Calvary, Tupelo	10,563.98
5. First, Clinton	10,238.96
6. Woodland Hills, Jackson	9,011.25
7. Alta Woods, Jackson	7,692.35
8. Temple, Hattiesburg	7,045.65
9. First, Gulfport	6,720.30
10. Harrisburg, Tupelo	6,495.25
11. First, Tupelo	6,128.17
12. First, Hattiesburg	6,082.91

1996 PER MEMBER GIFTS

1. Oak Grove, Lake	\$71.42
2. Kewanee, Toombs	37.50
3. Emory, West	20.00
4. Pace, Pace	18.25
5. Cayce, Byhalia	16.67
6. Old Silver Creek, Silver Creek	15.84
7. Bethel, Newton	14.84
8. Knoxo, Tylertown	13.92
9. New Hope, Calhoun City	13.85
10. Pleasant Hill, Union Church	13.75
11. Fellowship, Starkville	13.42
12. First, Marks	13.41



Goal: \$748,000
Goal: _____



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

DISNEY ESCAPISM

Editor:

I read with interest the article in the August 7 edition of The Baptist Record by R.K. Harrison. In his guest opinion titled "Let's get it right" he took to task the "Pharisaic Bigots" of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leadership for their unchristian leadership in the boycott of Disney.

Isn't it amusing that when the SBC castigates Disney for its vulgar and immoral activities they are being punitive and reactionary, but when (Houston) castigates the SBC he is being loving and affirmative.

The issue is not medical insurance for homosexuals, but the abomination of homosexuality. The issue is not being punitive, but that there will be no reward from Southern Baptists, for our quid pro quo (i.e. affirmation) should be for righteousness, not debauchery.

This stance by the SBC is not punitive, reactionary, nor negative, but is a reparation, proactive, positive statement to the world that we as Southern Baptists are not guided by "ungodliness and worldly lusts" and that we intend to "Live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age" (Titus 2:12).

Yes, it is about being salt and light in the world as we redeem the time in which we live. It is about "judging righteous judgement" (John 7:24). It is about not being "partakers with them" (Eph. 5:7) in their fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, or foolish talking" (Eph. 5:3-4).

I don't think Disney is so much about wholesome family entertainment as it about escapism for mom and dad while Disney serves as a babysitter for the children.

Larry Smith, pastor
Hebron Church
Sardis

REMEMBER HISTORIES

Editor:

With the dissolution of the Historical Commission of the SBC on June 19, 1997, the Southern Baptist Historical Society (SBHS) assumed full responsibility for meeting the historical needs of churches, associations, and state conventions.

Many of us continue to strongly believe that our history is important and are dedicated to filling the void left by the restructuring of the SBC.

The SBHS voluntarily began serving Southern Baptists in 1938 and is committed to pro-

viding the products, services, and assistance to enable Baptist people and organizations to know our rich heritage.

Among its services and products, the Society has available numerous pamphlets and videos on Baptist history, theology, and practice.

The Church History Resource Kit is an invaluable collection of materials for churches interested in preserving, recording, researching, promoting, and publishing their respective histories. Churches celebrating significant anniversaries can receive an attractive anniversary certificate suitable for framing from the SBHS.

Southern Baptists need the SBHS. The SBHS needs the support of Southern Baptists. Who do we seek to serve? Only those churches and organizations who have a history!

If you need information about our products, want to order our products, or would like to become a member of the Society, please contact the SBHS at 1-800-966-BAPT (2278).

The address of the SBHS, which is now located on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University, OBU Box 61838, 500 W. University, Shawnee, OK 74801-2590.

Slayden Yarbrough
Executive Director, SBHS
Shawnee, OK

CELEBRATING 95 YEARS

Editor:

First Church, Lucedale will be celebrating her ninety-fifth anniversary Sunday, October 19, beginning with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m. worship service, followed with a delicious covered dish lunch. Often times over the years, we lose contact with those who have been associated with our church.

Since 95 years is a major milestone, we would like to extend a personal invitation to those former staff, as well as friends who have been a part of the great heritage of FBC, who would be interested in attend-

ing by calling 601-947-3441 or writing to: Homecoming, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 117, Lucedale, Mississippi 39452.

Many wonderful activities are being planned, including an outstanding program with Johnny Walker, former pastor, and R.L. and Beth Sigrest, providing special music.

John L. Turner, pastor
First Church, Lucedale

BOOK STORE RESPONDS

Editor:

I am responding to two items of misinformation in the (Aug. 7) letter to the editor from Benny Still, who criticized Baptist Book Stores for:

◆ being hypocritical about the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Disney boycott.

Following passage of the boycott resolution, we removed all Disney products. The "Noah's Ark" music boxes were acquired from a non-Disney company months before the SBC resolution and were removed as soon as it was confirmed they contained a Disney song.

As an SBC agency, we support the actions taken by the convention, and it would be inconsistent to have our employees wearing Disney apparel at

work. We have adjusted our dress code accordingly.

◆ requiring employees to work on Sunday.

No employee was forced to work the Sunday inventory (on Aug. 3). It was strictly on a volunteer basis, in an effort to prevent the confusion and disappointment of previous years when customers — including many out-of-town pastors and church staffers — found the stores closed early on Saturday for inventory and could not purchase materials for use in church the next day.

By scheduling the inventory for 2 p.m., our intent was to enable all employees to attend morning Bible study and worship services. This also avoided the late-Saturday night fatigue that kept many of the inventory workers out of church the next morning.

I encourage anyone with questions or suggestions about the operation of Baptist Book Stores to contact me or the Jackson book store manager, Mike Jolly.

While we are not perfect, we are striving to be consistent in living out our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark Scott, General Manager
Baptist Book Stores
The Sunday School Board
Nashville

Zeiser to lead Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Willard Zeiser, program coordinator for the Missouri Baptist Convention for the past 15 years, will assume the role of acting executive director upon the retirement of Donald V. Wideman Aug. 31.

The Missouri Baptist Convention executive board unanimously elected Zeiser at its July meeting.


Wideman announced his retirement date a year ago during the board's July 1996 meeting.

Zeiser will serve until a special committee formed to call

Wideman's replacement completes their work.

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HICKORY BAPTIST in Newton Association is seeking a full-time minister of music. Interested parties send resume to: Personnel Committee Hickory Baptist Church PO Box 219, Hickory, MS 39332.

WANTED: Part-time Youth Director. Send resumes to: Trinity Baptist Church, 595 Center Avenue, Philadelphia, MS 39350.

THE CINCINNATI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is now accepting resumes for the position of Associational Missionary. The Associational Missionary would oversee Associational staff, offer support for churches and their staffs and direct the area churches in missions. The successful candidate should have a seminary degree, 10 years experience as a pastor, and experience with starting new churches. Resumes can be sent to Associational Missionary Search Committee, 735 Reading Road, Mason, Ohio 45040.

ACCEPTING RESUMES: Full-time conservative Youth/Children's Minister. Send to: PO Box 753, Waldron, AR 72958.

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REVIVAL DATES

Oral, Sumrall: youth revival; Aug. 30-31; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; leading will be Jon, Mark, and Matt Celoria of William Carey College.

Briarwood, Meridian: Sept. 7-10; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Michael Mason, Decatur, Ala., evangelist; Buddy McElroy, Briarwood Church, music; David Chambers, pastor.

First Church, Morton: Sept. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Ed Griffin, Franklinton, La., evangelist; Allen Hill, Taylorsville, music; Alvin C. Doyle, pastor.

Centreville, Centreville: Sept. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m., fellowship dinner, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Barry Corbett, Kosciusko, evangelist; Michael D. Sharp, New Orleans Seminary, music; Bill Broadwater, pastor; and Duane Roth, minister of music.

South Side, Meridian: Sept. 14-17; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Kermit McGregor, evangelist.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Harmony Hill Church, Tishomingo Association, licensed and ordained its pastor, **Tony Lambert**, on July 13. Lambert has been pastor since May.



Lambert

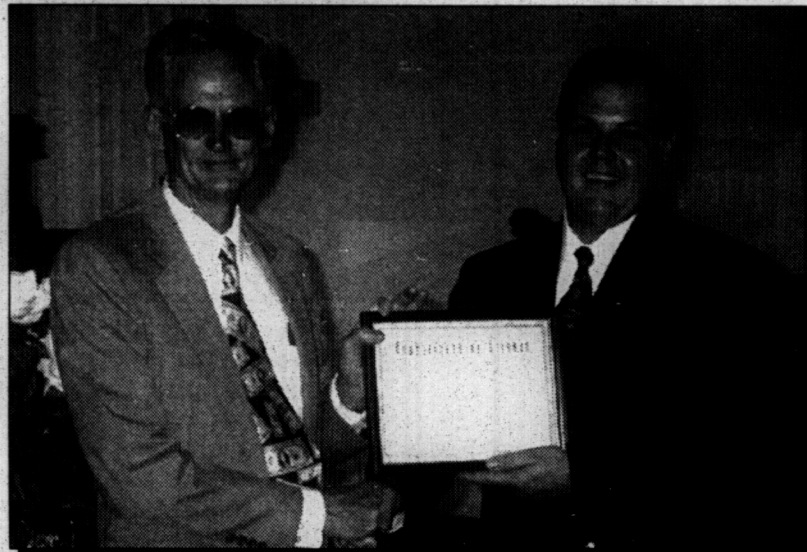
Edward Gandy, director of missions of Alcorn Association, has announced his retirement effective Sept. 30. A reception will be held in honor of Gandy and his wife Joan, Aug. 24, 2-4 p.m., at the

Alcorn Association office, Corinth.

J. Gilman McKee, son of J. Garland and June McKee of Clinton, received the doctor of ministry degree from **Midwestern Seminary**, Kansas City, Mo., during commencement exercises held in May. He is currently pastor of Highland Church, Florence, Ala.



McKee



STAFF CHANGES

Briarwood Church, Meridian, has called **Buddy McElroy** as minister of music effective Sept. 7. A native of Meridian, McElroy received his education at Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Liberty Church, Liberty.

Cato Church, Mendenhall, has called **Lowell Ingram** as pastor effective June 29. A

native of Memphis, Tenn., Ingram is a graduate of Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Strong Hope Church, Wesson.

Mt. Nebo Church, Collinsville, has called **Bill Freeman** as pastor effective Aug. 17. The church will hold a reception/pounding on Sept. 7 at 2:30 p.m. The address and phone number of the parsonage is 1979 Battlefield Rd., Collinsville, MS 39325, (601) 986-8839.

Mount Vernon Church, Mississippi Association, has called **Bobby Stults** as pastor effective Aug. 10. Stults is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Wayside Church, Vicksburg, has called **Larry Haggard** as pastor effective Aug. 3. A native of Macon, Haggard received his education at Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Pleasant Ridge, Sturgis.

Evansville Church, Northwest Association, recently licensed **Calvin Price** to the ministry. He plans to enroll at New Orleans Seminary this fall. Price is available for supply and can be reached at (601) 382-7608. Bernette Fielder is pastor.

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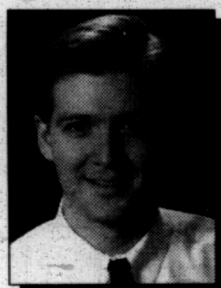
Dr. Timothy Beougher, Associate Dean
The Billy Graham School of Missions,
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Gulfport native is named US-2 missionary to Penn.

Gary and Kimberly Myers were appointed by the **North American Mission Board (NAMB)** Aug. 24 to be US-2 missionaries to Pennsylvania. US-2 missionaries are college graduates age 30 or younger who serve two years under appointment with NAMB and state conventions. Serving through the NAMB



G. Myers

Special Ministries Unit, the Myers are assigned to Pittsburgh where they will be involved in family and church ministries.

A native of Ada, Okla., he is a graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. A native of Gulfport, she graduated from Mississippi State University.



K. Myers

Homecomings

Franklin Creek, Pascagoula: Aug. 31; 11 a.m. service; noon meal; 2 p.m. singing; Greg Clark, Pascagoula, guest speaker; Endless Praise, Theodore, Ala., guest singers; Greg Foster, pastor.

Pilgrim's Rest, Batesville: Sept. 7; 112th anniversary; G. H. Surrence will preach at 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; and 1:45 p.m. singing by Veronica Raney.

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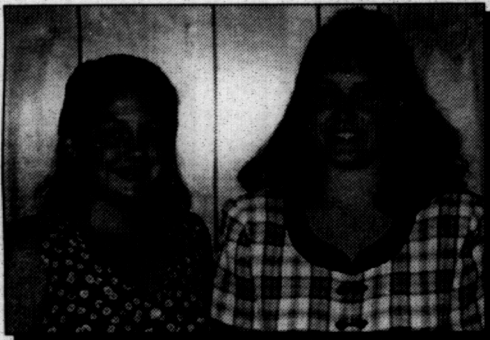
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Evansville Church, Northwest Association, recently held a note burning ceremony for its new sanctuary. The note was paid off in less than five years but was set up for ten years. Pictured above from left are Jimmy Still, chairman of the building committee and David Baker, chairman of deacons. Bernette Fielder is pastor.



Branch Church, Morton, recently held a Recognition Service. Candace Merchant received the Missions Adventure 1 and GinA 'n' Friends Book Club awards. She was presented the award by her GA leader, Lynn Irby. Alice Drury is WMU director and James Watts is pastor.

Ethel Church, Ethel, will celebrate its 100th year on Oct. 5. There will be regular morning services, dinner on the grounds, and a special afternoon service. Keith Dowden is pastor.

Sand Ridge Church, Lake, will host a reception to honor John and Wilma West upon their retirement. The reception will be held in the fellowship hall on Aug. 31 from 2-4 p.m.

Children's Ministry Seminar will be held at Crossgates Church, Brandon, on Sept. 12. Topics are Children Serving Others, Making Scripture Stick; Leading Children in Praise and Worship, Kids with Problems...Not Problems Kids,

Getting Volunteers on Board, and Fun New Games for Children's Ministry. The times are 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost of \$29 which includes lunch and snacks. Call (601) 825-2562 to register.

Lena Church, Lena, will host Magnificent Mondays at 7 p.m. on Sept. 15, 22, and 29. Personalities include Sept. 15, James Walters, Carthage; Sept. 22, The Howard Family Gospel Group; and Sept. 29, John Pace, Walnut Grove. Tom Stevens is pastor.

Cambridge Church, Gautier, will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Sept. 27-28. Saturday will be a fun day. Homecoming services are scheduled for Sunday followed by lunch. Bobby Perry of Gulf Coast Association will be the guest speaker. Perry was pastor of First Church, Moss Point, sponsoring Cambridge Church when it began as a mission. Dan Bradley is pastor.

Providence Church, Jayess, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Aug. 31. Activities will include 10:30 a.m. worship, noon meal, and music by Revelations at 1:30 p.m.

Anchor Church, Lafayette, held a dedication service for its new sanctuary on Aug. 10. A recognition service was held in the afternoon expressing gratitude to the builders, contractors,



The following young people from Wade Church, Pascagoula, have surrendered to serve Christ in some special field of service. Pictured (from left) front row, Jessica Pedersen, Melissa Smith; second row, Natalie Bryant, Carla Tanner, Jerit Reale, Brent Stork; third row, Kyle Randle, Brooks Delk, Chuck Tanner, and Russell Pedersen. Philip Price is associate pastor and youth minister.

and all who worked, prayed for, and gave toward the Lord's sanctuary. A church-wide fellowship followed in the activity building. Gerald Shook is pastor.

Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., will speak at the 1997 Mid-South Pastors' Conference, Sept. 16-17, on campus of New Orleans Seminary. With the theme, "Preaching and the Healthy Church," the conference examines the role of expository preaching in church growth. Vines, who was SBC president in 1988-90,

will lead seminars on personal preparation and sermon development and delivery. Conference cost of \$29 includes registration fee and break refreshments. For more information or to register, call (800) 662-8701, ext. 3320 or fax (504) 286-3635.

Victory Celebration will be held at Terry Road Church, Jackson, on Aug. 31. A covered dish dinner will be served at noon. The Rosetones, Robby, Danny, and Jeff Myrick, will be featured in the 7 p.m. service. Lonnie Myrick is pastor.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

James Sclater of Clinton, professor of music at Mississippi College (MC), has been chosen by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) as a recipient of an ASCAP Award for the 1997-98 school year. The yearly awards are granted by an independent panel and are based upon the unique prestige value of each writer's catalog of original compositions as well as the recent performance activity of those works in areas not surveyed by the Society. Sclater is a past recipient of the award. He has been a member of the MC faculty since 1970.

Two new scholarships have been added to those that will be available at Mississippi College. The Prentiss G. Cox Endowed Scholarship Fund was established by Beverly Stubblefield, a clinical psychologist in Slidell, La. Cox retired this year after 28 years in the Biology Department and served as chairman for 15 years. More than 500 of his students attended medical or dental schools. Cox was responsible for organizing the Biophiles, a support group which consists of alumni

and friends who have donated \$100,000 to the department.

The Dr. John W. Flowers Scholarship was established in honor of Flowers, a retired pastor. Flowers served as pastor of First Church, Senatobia, for 33 years. He retired from this position in 1992. Prior to going to Senatobia he was associate pastor for Wyatt Hunter at First Church, McComb. His first pastorate was Shady Grove Church, Lincoln Association. Flowers has been married to Jessie Babb Flowers for 49 years.

Birds and Blooms, paintings by Ruby Walker, will open in the Lucille Parker Gallery at William Carey College with a reception on Aug. 28, 5-6:30 p.m. The exhibit will hang through Sept. 26 and can be viewed Mon.-Fri., 1-4 p.m., or by appointment (601) 582-6192.

The **Blue Mountain College Department of Music** will present Edward Ludlow in a faculty organ recital on Sept. 2 at 8 p.m., in Lowrey Memorial Church. Ludlow is associate professor of organ and church music at Blue Mountain College.

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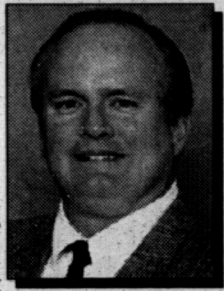
By Wayne VanHorn

The writer of Hebrews has sought to demonstrate the pre-eminence of Christ in all things. He has pleaded with his readers to submit to Jesus with an ever growing and maturing faith. In this final chapter he includes several injunctions related to appropriate Christian actions and worship.

Responsible Behavior (13:1-6). Christian action begins with love. Specifically, brotherly love (*philadelphia*) is to abide (13:1). *Philadelphia* refers to the mutual acceptance and adoration between believers. This kind of devotion to others is extended in 13:2 to include strangers. The

writer alludes to those who "have entertained angels unawares," but he does not specify who he has in mind. Abraham's hospitality and the attendant events come to mind (Genesis 18-19). Prisoners and those suffering adversity are brought under the umbrella of Christian affection in 13:3. Thus, Christian brothers, strangers, prisoners, and the afflicted are to be loved and treated well by believers. True faith results in acceptance of others without regard to their lot in life.

The author of Hebrews commends a high view of marriage and warns against sexual mis-



VanHorn

conduct (13:4). "Adultery" refers to infidelity on the part of a marriage partner. "Fornication" refers to all other forms of sexual misconduct. Believers are admonished to be content with what they have instead of allowing the love of money to control their lives (13:5). "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" reminds every person of faith that the presence of the Lord adequately compensates for any material lack (see also Matthew 6:21-34 and Hebrews 11:24-26). Obedience results in a bold testimony and confidence in the Lord (13:6). Since he is our helper, we have no need to fear what others will do to us.

Responsible Religion (13:7-16). The author refers to his readers' leaders three times in this chapter. Believers should remember and imitate the faith

of their leaders (13:7), and obey and submit to their leaders because those leaders will give an account for their souls (13:17). Finally, the readers are asked to extend the author's greetings to their leaders, apparently as a sign of hospitality and respect (13:24). Respect for and submission to spiritual leaders relates to "fixing our eyes on Jesus" (12:2). "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever" (13:8; NASB). Therefore, respect for spiritual leaders prevents believers from flirting with "strange teachings" (13:9).

In 13:10-16, the writer deals with Christian religion in the truest sense. The altar in 13:10 refers to the sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice in 13:11 undoubtedly refers to the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16). The fact that the bodies of the animals were burned "outside the camp" implies rejection and

separation. The full importance comes to the fore in 13:12. Jesus suffered outside the gate. This verse means that Jesus was rejected by all that Jerusalem stood for: the center of Judaism, the hierarchy and authority of the priesthood, and ceremonial cleanness as pronounced by the "official" priests. The author points out that Jesus faced the reproach and rejection of men for those who would believe. Now, let those who believe face the reproach and rejection of men to be with Jesus (13:13). Our new sacrifices are praise and thanksgiving (13:15), doing good and sharing (13:16). These sacrifices, not the death of animals or religious rituals, please God! As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him" (II Corinthians 5:9; NRSV).

VanHorn is pastor, First Church, Columbia.

LIFE AND WORK

Issues: alcohol and drugs

Proverbs 20:1; 23:19-21, 29-35

By Geneva England

Suzee* was a lonely, withdrawn girl, with few friends. The older she grew, the stranger her outlook on life became. One teacher tried to reach her without success. It wasn't long until she had wandered into the alcohol and drug culture to become another lost soul caught in Satan's web. This story has no happy ending, because Suzee's life has been destroyed by alcohol/drug abuse. She has become one of the 10-12 million alcoholics. Add the millions of drug abusers, and we understand the reason for broken homes, problem children, manic-depressed adults, and internal crises.

The only solution to these problems lies in knowing God

through his Holy Word. Without God, the lost unwittingly serve as pawns in Satan's chess game. Without God, they blindly follow Satan to destruction. Through God's strength, the addict can overcome his addiction because "God is faithful" in that, with the temptation he will "make a way to escape" (I Cor. 10:13). If some abuse controls your life, simply trust in him and claim his promise. Then "Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right and dwell on the fine, good things in others" (Phil. 4:8 TLB).

Corrupting Power of Alcohol (20:1). By dulling the senses, alcoholic drinks adversely affect a person's judgment, resulting in an uncharac-



England

teristic violent behavior. Drinkers lose their sense of rightness, their wisdom. Rather than the panacea to life's problems, drink becomes the problem, thus mocking the very person seeking solace within its powers.

Wise Action Regarding Alcohol (23:19-20). This wise advice is addressed to "my son," to one whose heart follows the right path and who wisely avoids the sin of drunkenness. The correct order is identified: first, a right heart with God; second, righteous behavior. Parents should teach their children by example to make wise decisions in life based on Biblical guidelines.

Effects of Drunkenness (23:21, 29-30). Drunkards and gluttons have eaten and drunk themselves into poverty throughout the ages. Many paychecks today are spent on Satan's diet: beer, whiskey, wine, "pot," etc. As a result, most of these diners have

become anemic in wisdom. All too often they abandon children, homes, businesses, friends, church—everything for the next drink or "hit." Not only do alcoholics and drug abusers harm their bodies physically, but often they lose their Christian influence.

Dangerous Deception of Alcohol (23:31-32). As "prince of the power of the air," Satan corrupts the media with his deceiving and coercing lies that "the good life" exists within the bubbles of a Cooler or the redness of a rare wine. Are viewers shown the other side of the story — a wounded wife cringing from the blows of a drunken husband or frightened children cowering beneath a bed or a mangled body being pulled from a car hit by a drunken driver? No!

Our Lord explicitly condemns drunkenness. He even warns against the sparkling wine with its deceiving smoothness. He told his disciples not to become "weighted down" in

drunkenness and the anxieties that result. (Lk. 21:34 NIV).

Results of Addiction (28:33-35). Strong alcoholic drink or illegal drugs often create delusions ranging from heights of exhilaration to horrors such as crawling things on the body, lurking shadows in every room, or exploding fireworks in the brains. With drugs or drink, the partaker can never be sure of the effects; with God the believer can always be sure. Believers are planted on the solid rock of Christ, not on the volatile street "rock." We are grounded in an eternal God that loved us enough to send his only son to die for our sins.

Beware; the days are evil! We must not act foolishly, including using illegal drugs or alcohol. The Apostle Paul warned, "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery, instead, be filled with the spirit" (Eph. 5:18 NIV).

*pseudonym used
England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Resources and giving

1 Corinthians 15:58-16:24

By Jason Bird

Sound doctrine equips believers to be faithful, obedient servants of Christ. Paul's teachings to the church of Corinth were not given just to educate them, but to motivate them to give themselves fully to pleasing God. The book of 1 Corinthians ends with an exhortation to faithfulness.

Giving Ourselves In Service (15:58). Paul's message to the Corinthians reaches its climax in verse 58. Essentially, he states, "Since God has given you all spiritual gifts for the purpose of ministering to others and since you will one day exchange the temporary, natural body for an eternal, spiritual

one, then commit yourselves to serving the Lord even more."

Believers today have access to more knowledge about God than any other generation. Countless study Bibles, commentaries, books, and radio programs explain doctrine. However, believers should never acquire knowledge merely for knowledge's sake. Knowledge about God should always lead to a life more fully committed to serving God and working to advance his kingdom. This work is never in vain.

Giving Our Resources (16:1-4). An offering being taken in all the churches of the New Testament world, "the collec-



Bird

tion for God's people," helped support the poor believers in Jerusalem. An important part of Paul's ministry, he encouraged each church to participate in the collection. In Romans 15:25-27, he even indicates the Gentiles owed the Jews a share of their material blessings since it was through the Jews they enjoyed the spiritual blessing of salvation. Paul's teachings on giving are not unrelated, but are part of all a believer learns about serving God.

From this passage we see giving is an act of worship, since they brought their gifts "on the first day of every week," when the church met to worship. Secondly, we see giving was to be systematic — experienced "every" week. Finally, believers were to give proportionate to their income. Believers were to sacrifice equally for the purpose

of carrying on the ministry of the saints.

The standards for giving are unchanged today. This passage enables believers to evaluate their own giving habits and whether or not they honor the Lord.

Helping Others Serve (16:5-16). Not only were the Corinthians to give of themselves and their money, they were also called to help others in ministry to serve as well. Paul mentions his desire to visit the Corinthians so they can financially support him as he traveled for the Lord. But he was concerned about the ministry of others as well.

Paul's most valued assistant, Timothy, as a young man, accompanied Paul on his missionary journeys and became a fellow minister. Paul encouraged them to treat Timothy with kindness and to support his ministry.

Apollos was a gifted minister who had many friends in

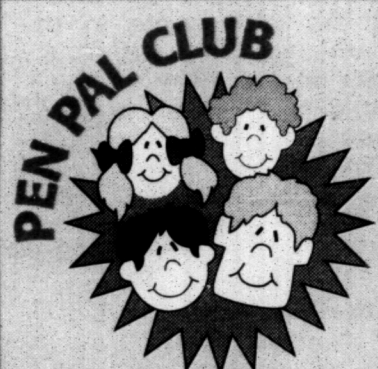
Corinth. In fact, some tried to pit him against Paul. Paul diffused the situation by declaring both were merely servants of God. Paul wanted Apollos to return to Corinth to minister, but Apollos didn't feel led to go at the time. A mark of his spiritual maturity, Paul let the matter rest at that.

Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus were strong believers in the church at Corinth. They were Paul's first converts in the region. They traveled from Corinth to Ephesus to minister to Paul and encourage him in his ministry.

Timothy, Apollos, Stephanas, Fortunatus, Achaicus, and Paul all serve as reminders that no one does the work of God alone. Believers are a body, each part important in carrying on the work of the Lord. Each believer must give fully of their own gifts and resources to build the kingdom of God.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

College students pack summer conferences



Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Nick Field. I go to Sumrall Elementary School. I am going into the 5th grade. I just started attending First Baptist Church of Oloh. My hobbies are running, swimming and just hanging around outside. I used to live in New York State but I've lived in Mississippi for 5 years now. I have a female cat named Goldie and we have a female and a male Great Dane named Katy and Billy Bob.

Please write to:
25 Regan Road
Sumrall, MS 39482

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YKVP KMEY WVCTN HLD-
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DVN, TCTF YKX DVN,
KMYK MFVLFYTN YKTT
RLYK - YKT VLW VG
DWMNFTEE MOVCT YKX
GTWWVRE.

KTOHTRE VFT: FLFT

Clue: X equals Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Third John Eleven.

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. (BP) — More than 2,000 Southern Baptist college students attending Student Week '97 conferences in Lake Junaluska, N.C., and Glorieta, N.M., Aug. 9-15 learned about two convention-wide programs with opportunities for evangelism in 1998.

Students were invited to participate in both.

BreakOut '98 involves college students in sharing their faith during spring break at three different resort locations in Florida and Colorado, and CrossOver '98 is an evangelistic outreach held prior to and during next year's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Bob Hartman, a consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry (NSM), said more than 2,000 college students are expected to participate in the six BreakOut '98 events. A variety of ministries are planned to give students an opportunity to minister to their non-Christian peers during spring break, including beach games, free van rides, pancake breakfasts, sunburn stations, and coffee-houses. Participating students are given six weeks of evangelism training before the events, Hartman said.

BreakOut '98 events are



PRAYER TIME — Three college students from Miami, Fla., pause for prayer during a worship service at Student Week '97 at Lake Junaluska (N.C.) Assembly. Pictured left to right are: Jen Viscarra, a recent graduate of Barry University; Cory Cain and Jennifer Roun, both students at the University of Miami. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

planned in Panama City Beach, Fla., for BeachReach, March 7-13, March 14-20, March 21-27; Vail, Colo., for SkiReach, March 14-20; Daytona, Fla., for BeachReach, March 21-27; and Daytona, Fla., for Black Student Reunion BeachReach, April 16-19.

Hartman said this is the third consecutive year for BreakOut, adding more than 1,300 students participated in 1997. The program is sponsored by NSM, the North American Mission Board, and state

Baptist conventions and local associations. For registration information, call 1-800-254-2022. For program information, call NSM at (615) 251-2777.

Chat room adventure results in nightmares

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (BP) — Summer Nix thought her friends were playing a vampire game until a stranger sucked blood from her lips.

"The whole thing was like a bad ... nightmare," she said.

Last year the 13-year-old from Spartanburg ran away with a friend after meeting a cult leader in a chat room. His name was Cash Morris, an 18-year-old from Sparks, Nev., who called himself the Dark One.

"He professes to be a modern day vampire," said Connie Nix, Summer's mother.

"I had no earthly idea," she added. "We didn't have a computer at the time."

Summer would go to her friend Casey's house and watch while the 15-year-old contacted Morris in a vampire chat room.

"They assumed it was an elaborate game," said Colin Gabriel Hatcher, with Cyber Angels, an Internet safety organization.

"The kids get into trouble with their parents," he added. "He (Morris) was trying to persuade this girl to run away. Often the two things go together."

The on-line friendship developed into a romance. Morris drove to S.C., and asked Casey to leave with him. She didn't want to go unless Summer went also. That led to an 11-day trip with no word to parents.

"It was a terrible ordeal," said Connie Nix. She found a note that said: "Dear Mom, this has nothing to do with you. I will be back. Love, Summer."

CrossOver '98 is expected to involve 500 students from across the country in an evangelistic outreach June 4-14 in Salt Lake City, according to Rollin DeLap, a student evangelism consultant for NAMB. Two-day CrossOver events have been held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the SBC for nine years, DeLap said, adding more than 12,000 people have accepted Christ as a result of the program.

This year, however, is the first year a nationwide effort is taking place to involve college students in the project, he said, adding they will minister for seven days.

"We're not going there to argue, we're not going to debate. We're going to share our faith," he said. "I believe we'll have the potential of having the greatest impact for Christ in that city's history."

For more information about CrossOver '98, call DeLap at (615) 833-0787, or e-mail him at 105441.2664@compuserve.com.

Morris took the girls back to Nevada, where his group would gather in old buildings. That's where the game turned strange.

"They were ... cutting each other's bodies and drinking each other's blood," explained Hatcher.

"At first I didn't know what to say or how to act," added Summer. I was scared."

Casey bit into Morris' hand and began to suck his blood. One man leaned over as if to kiss Summer. He bit into her lips and began to suck her blood. She drew back with holes through the skin, swollen lips and a bruise.

"I'm ready to go home," she told Casey.

Cult members dropped her at a gas station where Summer called police.

"The scariest thing is that no charges were met," added Hatcher.

Nevada law required Summer's mother to be in that state. She lacked funds for a trip. Summer went home and Casey, her friend, stayed to marry the cult leader.

"There's nothing the police could do," said Hatcher. "The kids don't seem to be learning from the news."

A year has passed since the ordeal. Summer and her mother now attend Westside Church in Spartanburg. Summer is in counseling. And she tries to warn other young people about the danger in chat rooms. "You'll get hurt," she says. "I have the same nightmares... every day of my life."

A PROPHET NAMED JONAH

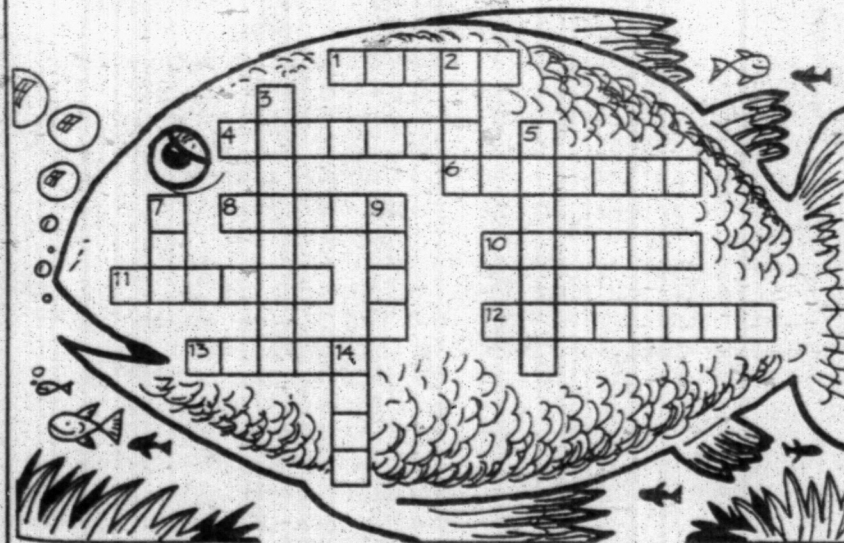
Jonah 1-4

Across

1. Jonah was in the _____ of the fish. v. 1:17
4. Jonah was a _____.
6. Jonah's companions on the boat were _____. v. 1:5
8. The _____ swept over Jonah. v. 2:3
10. The _____ of Nineveh could not tell their right hand from their left. v. 4:11
11. It was a giant fish that _____ Jonah. v. 1:17
12. After Jonah preached to them the people _____ v. 3:5
13. Jonah spent _____ days and nights inside the fish. v. 1:17

Down

2. The sailors cast _____. v. 1:7
3. God wanted Jonah to be a _____. v. 1:2
5. Jonah was supposed to preach at _____. v. 1:2
7. The sailors threw Jonah into the _____. v. 1:15
9. The _____ almost broke apart. v. 1:4
14. The people of Nineveh eventually turned from their _____ ways. v. 3:10



Source: Fun Stuff for Kids by Michael Streff (Zondervan, 1990), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.